

Message Text

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41

ACTION IO-10

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 427

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: EPS COVERAGE - NEW YORK CITY

1. USUN HAS ONCE AGAIN REVIEWED EPS COVERAGE IN NEW YORK WHICH IS AT THIS TIME LIMITED TO LOCATIONS CONCERNED WITH MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM. THESE LOCATIONS ARE ABOVE STREET LEVEL AND ARE MANNED DURING BUSINESS HOURS ONLY, USUALLY FIVE DAYS PER WEEK. WE REQUEST THAT COVERAGE OF JORDAN, LEBANON, SYRIA AND ISRAEL MISSIONS AS WELL AS OBSERVER OFFICES OF PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION AND LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES BE CONTINUED, SUBJECT TO REVIEW IN 2 MONTHS.

2. SITUATION IN MIDDLE EAST REMAINS VOLATILE. IN PAST FEW WEEKS THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL DISTURBING INCIDENTS WHICH SINGULARLY OR COLLECTIVELY COULD CAUSE SERIOUS CONFRONTATION, RESULT OF WHICH COULD BE RENEWED ARMED CONFLICT. REPORTS INDICATE THAT IN PAST 20 DAYS THERE HAVE BEEN 10 BOMBINGS OR BOMBING ATTEMPTS IN ISRAEL FOR WHICH PALESTINIANS CLAIM CREDIT. IN LAST 2 WEEKS ISRAELI TROOPS HAVE MADE 4 FORAYS INTO LEBANON TO BREAK UP ALLEGED LEBANESE CONCENTRATION OF TERRORIST GROUPS ON THEIR BORDERS. ON AT LEAST ONE OCCASION ISRAELIS BROUGHT BACK PRISONERS FOR INTERROGATION. FURTHERMORE, DOMESTIC INSECURITY IN LEBANON APPROACHING SERIOUS CIVIL DISORDER IS BEING CLOSELY FOLLOWED HERE AND COULD AFFECT SECURITY OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LEBANESE MISSION.

3. CONTINUANCE OF PRESENT STATE OF AFFAIRS IN MIDDLE EAST OR ANY DETERIORATION THEREOF WILL HAVE AN EFFECT ON NEW YORK GROUPS CONCERNED WITH BOTH SIDES OF CONFLICT. NEW YORK BASED MILITANT ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS JDL (JEWISH DEFENSE LEAGUE), SOIL (SAVE OUR ISRAEL), CAIR (COMMITTEE AGAINST ISRAELI RETREAT), AND ACTION COMMITTEE ON AMERICAN-ARAB RELATIONS, CONTINUE THEIR ACTIVITIES ON A REGULAR BASIS. JDL ACTIVIST LEADER RABBI KAHANE, THOUGH IN JAIL, IS ALLOWED 7 HOURS FREEDOM EACH DAY IN NEW YORK TO CONTINUE HIS "CAM-PAIGN" WHICH POSES THREAT TO ISRAELI AND ARAB MISSIONS (ABOUT WHICH HE HAS BOASTED IN PRESS). THE FREQUENCY AND INTENSITY OF THESE SEVERAL ACTIVITIES VARIES WITH STATE OF UNREST IN MIDDLE EAST. ACCORDING TO NEW YORK POLICE INTELLIGENCE AND FBI, THESE GROUPS STUDY SECURITY COVERAGE OF DIPLOMATIC ESTABLISHMENTS AND ARE GUIDED IN THEIR CHOICE OF TARGETS. RECENT INCIDENTS AFFECTING IRAQI MISSION (FIRE-BOMBING OF APRIL 10) AND EGYPTIAN TOURIST OFFICE (THIRD WINDOW BREAKING ON MAY 18) ILLUSTRATE THIS POINT. IN BOTH INSTANCES FIXED POST COVERAGE BY NEW YORK CITY POLICE HAD BEEN WITHDRAWN. SPECIAL POINT IN THIS REGARD HAD BEEN MADE BY IRAQI REP IN RECENT MEETING OF HOST COUNTRY COMMITTEE CALLED TO CONSIDER SECURITY ASPECTS OF UN MISSIONS. DURING FIXED POST COVERAGE THERE WERE NO INCIDENTS AT THESE SITES. POLICE BELIEVE AND FBI AGREE THAT UNIFORMED PRESENCE IS A POSITIVE DETERRENT TO ACTS OF THIS NATURE AND THAT MILITANT GROUPS SELECT THEIR TARGETS ON BASIS OF ABSENCE OF POLICE AND/OR EPS COVERAGE.

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